

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) An improvement on a golf club, comprising:

a shaft;

a club head having a hosel extending therefrom with a

borehole for insertion of the shaft, [[:]] the borehole including an upper portion and a lower portion smaller than the upper portion in diameter; and

a protecting insert for cushioning the shaft against fracture,

[[:]] the protecting insert having a first through hole for insertion of the shaft, [[:]]

the protecting insert including an upper end portion [[:]] and a fixing lower end

portion smaller than the upper end portion in diameter, [[:]] the insert being joined

to the club head with the upper end portion, ~~and~~ the fixing lower end portion being

respectively disposed on top of the borehole [[:]] and inserted into the upper

portion of the borehole, and with glue being applied between an outer side of the

insert and a wall of the borehole upper portion, [[:]] a lower end of the shaft being

inserted through the insert and into the borehole with glue being applied on an

outer side thereof, [[:]] the protecting insert being formed with a plurality of

~~second through holes on~~ openings formed through the lower fixing end portion for allowing the glue applied over the outer side of the shaft lower end and the glue applied over the outer side of the fixing lower end portion of the insert to be joined together, each opening being defined by a circumferentially directed first slot and an axially directed second slot intersecting the first slot.

Claims 2 – 3 (Cancelled).